Rail Line between Khurdha Road and Bolangir

2305. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the construction of a rail line between Khurdha Road and Bolangir in Orissa;

(b) if so, by when the proposal is going to be implemented;

(c) whether the project would be taken up during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The work is sanctioned. Final location survey is in progress and the report is expected by 31-03-1999. Once the survey is completed, land acquisition plans and papers will be submitted to the State Government and once the land becomes available, the actual work will be taken up.

Railway infrastructural facilities in Orissa

2306. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor Railway infrastructural facilities in Orissa;

(b) whether Government propose to develop infrastructural facilities at different railway stations in that State; and

(c) if so, the details of programmes drawn up for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Railway infrastructural facilities are created to suit the smooth and efficient movement of traffic based on requirements in an overall perspective. Adequate infrastructural facilities are provided at the time of commissioning of a new line. However, with the passage of time, facilities are required to be augmented commensurate with the traffic demands. Accordingly works of New Line Angul—Sukinda Road, Conversion of Nawapada-Gunupur, Doubling Titlagarh-Lanjigarh, Doubling Rahama-Paradip, Talcher yard re-modelling, Jharsuguda yard remodelling, Crossing stations between Goraknath-Rahama on Cuttack-Paradip Section have been taken up during 1997-98 and 1998-99. More works as considered necessary will be taken up during the remaining years of IXth Plan, subject to availability of funds.

Supply of sub-standard mineral water by the Railways

2307. SHRI SHIBU SOREN:
SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to an internal official report, a substantial percentage of bottled mineral water supplied on Railway premises and on board the trains is unfit for consumption;

(b) if so, the details of the internal report;

(c) whether it is also a fact that adulterations are rampant on the Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains;

(d) if so, the details of action taken/ being taken in this context; and

(c) the details of actions taken to tighten the selection and quality monitoring process for supply of mineral water in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during the surprise checks conducted by the officials of medical department in the months of July and August, 1998, a total number of 727 samples of mineral water were collected on all Indian Railways and sent for laboratory examination. Out of these 131 samples of different brands failed the test checks.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. On the basis of inquiry conducted by the Railways the supply of four brands of mineral water has been discontinued an their contracts terminated. All Zonal Railways were also advised to take suitable action against the mineral water suppliers/manufacturers whose samples have failed. Tendering procedure is being made more stringent.

Mineral water samples are collected regularly under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Quality Control and examined for quality and standards laid down by the Ministry of Health. In case of samples found adulterated, departmental and legal action is taken against the vendors/suppliers. Besides, regular checks/inspections are being conducted by the Commercial and Medical officers on static and mobile catering units.

Loss of Railways due to accidents

308. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Miniser of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total loss incurred by the railways due to frequent accidents;

(b) what steps are being taken to prevent further disasters in railways;

(c) what is the time taken to give relief money to the families of the deceased and

(d) what is the total amount disbursed during this year on account of rail accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The total direct loss occured during the last 2 years due to accidents are as under:

1996-97 — 53.21 cr.
1997-98 — 56.13 cr. (Provisional)

(b) Steps taken to being down the incidents of train accidents on Indian Railways are as under:—

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the Signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimuse chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.

(iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometeres are bieng progressively used.